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A NATO SPY LINK DENIED BY ITALY

3 Are Formally Charged After Russian's Ouster

By ROBERT C. DOTY

Special to The New York Times

ROME, March 23 — The Italian Defense Ministry said today there was "no foundation whatever" for reports that officers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had been implicated in a Soviet spy ring uncovered in Turin.

A communiqué left open, however, the possibility that Soviet spies might turn up among the people whose names were found on a long list in the apartment of three espionage suspects.

The suspects — formally charged in Turin today under two antiespionage statutes — were Giorgio Rinaldi-Ghislieri,

39 years old; his wife, Angela Maria Antoniola, 52, and Antonio Girard, who said he was a chauffeur for the two others. Seized in the Rinaldi-Ghislieri apartment, according to Italian counterespionage investigators, were a powerful radio sending and receiving set, code books, microphotography equipment and other espionage material.

Girard, arrested at the Mont-Genèvre Pass between France and Italy on March 15, is reported to have carried 19 rolls of microfilm of military installations including United States air bases in Spain.

The Rinaldi-Ghislieris were arrested in Turin the same day. On March 20, an attaché of the Soviet Embassy in Rome was seized by the police in fields outside Rome. They said he had gone to a "drop" deposit for espionage material.

The attaché, Yuri Pavlenko, was declared persona non grata by the Italian Foreign Ministry. He left Italy by plane yesterday with his wife and daughter. The Italians, if convicted, face

penalties from 15 years to life imprisonment—the latter only if they are found guilty of having transmitted state secrets to a foreign power.

Beyond the statement denying the implication of NATO officers, neither the Italian Defense Ministry nor the Foreign Ministry would give further details on the case.

Suspect a Parachutist

Italian investigators said Rinaldi-Ghislieri, a noted professional parachutist, made his first contact with a Soviet Lieutenant colonel at the Rome embassy in 1958 and was formally recruited six years later into the G.R.U., the Soviet Army intelligence service.

Italian counter espionage agents believe that he was assigned to espionage against military bases in Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

He was also linked with activities reaching into Africa and Scandinavia.

Rinaldi-Ghislieri was reported today to have been hospitalized in prison after a nervous collapse. The newspaper Giornale d'Italia said he had told investigators that he expected to be killed by his Soviet masters and, in fear of poisoning, would eat only eggs boiled in his presence. No official sources would confirm this report.

NATO Denies Reports

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PARIS, March 23—A spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization said tonight that "the news carried by the press with respect to the alleged involvement of 300 NATO officers in the spy ring discovered in Italy lacks any foundation."